No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/05/02 : LOC-HAK-187-5-44-1

SCOWCROFT, LL

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RNR 158
MIDEAST-- NIGHTLEAD ZAYYAT:
BY GILBERT SEDBON
PARIS, NOV. 5, REUTER-EGYPTIAN SPECIAL ENVOY MOHAMMED HASSAN EL ZAYYAT TODAY HANDED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT TO PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU AND DISCUSSED MOVES FOR A POSSIBLE EUROPEAN ROLE IN SETTLING THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.
ZAYYAT, WHO IS DUE TO MEET BRITISH PRIME MINISTER EDWARD HEATH IN LONDON ON WEDNESDAY, HAD A 70-MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT.
ZSTRESSING THE DRAMATIC SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HE SAID AFTERWARDS "FOR US IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH".
ZAYYAT, WHO CONFERRED WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT EARLIER MONDAY, TOLD REPORTERS THAT FRANCE HAD A SPECIAL POSITION IN EGYPT AND THE ARAB WORLD BECAUSE OF ITS POLICY SINCE 1967.
ASKED IF THE ARAB OIL WEAPON WAS GOING TO HIT EUROPE VERY HARD, HE REPLIED: "FRANCE NEED NOT WORRY".
ZAYYAT SAID HIS TALKS WITH POMPIDOU WERE "VERY IMPORTANT, VERY SINCERE AND IN GREAT DEPTH".
HE ADDED: "I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO THE FRENCH PRESIDENT".
THE EGYPTIAN ENVOY READ OUT A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE STRESSED FRANCES SPECIAL POSITION IN THE ARAB WORLD."THIS SHOULD SUFFICE TO EXPLAIN THE NATURE OF MY MISSION--THE FIRST ENTRUSTED TO ME BY PRESIDENT SADAT AFTER MY APPOINTMENT AS HIS SPECIAL ADVISER", HE SAID.
MORE LFT/MJ 1547

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RNR 159
MIDEAST-NIGHTLEAD ZAYYAT 2 PARIS
ZAYYAT ADDED: "IN EGYPTS AND PRESIDENT SADATS VIEW, THIS IS NOT ONLY A MISSION TO FRANCE AS SUCH, BUT ALSO A MISSION TO FRANCE, WHICH OCCUPIES AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN EUROPE. THE TREND OF EVENTS HAS CONFIRMED THAT FRANCE TOOK THE RIGHT STAND INSIDE INDEPENDENT EUROPE".
EARLIER ZAYYAT TOLD REPORTERS THAT EGYPT WAS PRESSING FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. REFERRING TO A PEACE PLAN OUTLINED BY SADAT ON OCT. 16 IN CAIRO, ZAYYAT INSISTED ON JUSTICE AS THE BASIS FOR ANY SETTLEMENT."WE WANT A DURABLE PEACE AND FOR THIS REASON WE MUST HAVE JUSTICE", HE SAID.
ARAB DIPLOMATS IN PARIS SAID THAT ONE OF ZAYYATS MISSIONS WAS TO CLEAR UP A MISUNDERSTANDING OVER EUROPE BEING LEFT OUT OF THE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF THE NEW WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
DURING THE WAR IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT ONLY THE TWO SUPER POWERS, AS THE MAIN ARMS SUPPLIERS TO THE WARRING PARTIES, SHOULD DEAL WITH THE COMBAT SITUATION, ONE ARAB DIPLOMAT SAID.
BUT AS THE DIPLOMATIC PHASE OF THE CONFLICT IS GETTING UNDER WAY, THE ARAB COUNTRIES WANT TO ASSOCIATE WESTERN EUROPE TO ALL EFFORTS TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, HE ADDED.
THE DIPLOMAT NOTED THAT ZAYYAT, IN HIS STATEMENT HERE TODAY, EMPHASIZED THE ROLE THAT AN INDEPENDENT EUROPE COULD PLAY.
REUTER LFT/MJ 1550

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